Dear Friends:

Without a doubt, fall is the most exciting time on a college campus, an occasion of new beginnings, new friends and new opportunities. That excitement all starts with a new class of wide-eyed freshmen, who stand on the threshold of their futures, ready for us to guide them to the opportunities that await. Too, we are joined each fall by more new faculty and staff than at any other time of the year. Let me welcome each of you, whether a new student or a new employee, to Angelo State University. I look forward to meeting and working with you in the coming months.

To you returning students, faculty and staff, I say welcome back. You are the reason ASU is building a growing national reputation. Heading into this new academic year, ASU has already received some national recognition. For the fifth straight year, Angelo State has been named to The Princeton Review’s list of “Best Colleges” nationally. That announcement came in August after The Chronicle of Higher Education in July named ASU a “Great College to Work For.” This is the second time ASU has made The Chronicle’s list. Congratulations to each of you for your role in making these recognitions possible, whether it is teaching classes, providing administrative support or, most importantly, recruiting new freshmen and transfer students. Please keep up the good work.

Another joy of a new fall semester is the anticipation of upcoming seasons for all of our athletic teams. Please join with me in supporting them by attending their games and investing some of your time in their success. Our athletes spend a lot of time outside the classroom and lab representing us, so let’s get behind them and help them win more conference and even national championships.

As multiple conference titles demonstrated during the 2012-13 academic year, our students are highly successful on the athletic field, but no more so than in the classroom. Sean Motl is building a growing national reputation. Heading into this new academic year, ASU has

Sincerely,

Brian J. May
President

Angelo State University

Fall 2013
Vol. 6, No. 3

Angelo State University
Member, Texas Tech University System

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Editor’s Note: All of the world’s a stage, and so the ASU theatre program is preparing its students for life. This issue features the stories of bringing a stage production to reality.

Message from the President

The Drama of Drama .................................................. 18
As Shakespeare would have told you, every act of a play is important. So, too, are the various acts behind producing a play at ASU – or elsewhere.

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Boom Goes the Market ........................................... 28
As the oil business picks up around San Angelo with some 3 billion barrels of oil retrievable from the Cline Shale, the real estate market is taking off as well with implications for the area and ASU.

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On the Cover: A work of art goes on behind the scenes of Angelo State’s theatre program before students like Heather Walker and Tyler Tennell can take center stage. (Photo by Danny Meyer)

Back Cover: The newest attraction on the University Mall is “Kinesis,” an undulating red-ribbon sculpture, representing movement both inside and outside the Center for Human Performance. (Photo by Danny Meyer)

Brian J. May
The “Campaign for Angelo State University,” as it was called, was the first major capital campaign in the history of ASU. As staff members in ASU’s Office of Development determined a strategy for the campaign, they were in uncharted territory, uncertain how large a goal to set. They settled on $25 million as an attainable challenge.

With the generosity of so many, ASU reached that goal in December of 2011 and subsequently established a challenge goal of $30 million more. ASU’s alumni and friends, ultimately totaling 4,499, pitched in and helped meet that challenge in June, two months before the campaign’s scheduled end.

Jamie Akin, executive director of development and alumni relations, said, “This historic achievement for Angelo State University shows the loyalty of our alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the university.”

Austin’s Wayne T. Franke, chairman of the ASU Foundation, said, “I am so proud of President May, the development staff, every member of the ASU Foundation Board, and the entire ASU family in having reached this tremendous milestone. We worked together as a team for the betterment of ASU and we are all so proud to do our part in helping grow ASU and the great Texas Tech System.”

The ambitious ASU goal was part of a larger $1 billion TTUS goal set for all system components collectively and announced in February. The system goal was achieved earlier that year.

Angelo State’s fundraising efforts went above and beyond during our ambitious capital campaign,” said Texas Tech University System Chancellor Kent Hance. “Our supporters didn’t rest until meeting the challenge goal of $35 million, and we are truly grateful for the outstanding dedication of Angelo State alumni and friends.”

Over the course of the campaign, donations ranged from a handful of dollars to seven-figure gifts. Cumulatively, the donations met multiple campus needs ranging from scholarships to buildings and from endowed chairs to programmatic support. Additionally, the campaign enhanced contributions to the ASU Alumni Association, the Athletic Foundation and the annual fund.

Endowed Chairs were established in the College of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Health and Human Services.

New facilities resulting from the campaign include the Mayer-Rousselot Agriculture Education Training Center, scheduled for completion in early 2014; the 61st Community Federal Credit Union Field, targeted for use this fall; and the Norris Baseball Clubhouse, which opened in the fall of 2011.

The success of the campaign will ripple through the future of ASU in many visible and in many unseen ways. Perhaps Foundation Chair Franke best summed up the campaign’s success with two words: “Go Rams!”

4,499
Equals $35 Million

With the groundbreaking of the Mayer-Rousselot Agriculture Education Training Center, ASU’s Management, Instruction and Research (MIR) Center is expanding to accommodate the growth of the Agriculture Department’s program to educate high school agriculture teachers.

The 4,372-square-foot, $1.07 million Mayer-Rousselot facility is being built by Templeton Construction adjacent to the MIR Center’s Food Safety/Product Development Lab. The new structure will provide practical agricultural education facilities, including 20 student areas for welding, small engine repair and general mechanical instruction. Construction is scheduled for completion in January.

The facility was funded by private contributions with a lead gift coming from the Mayer-Rousselot family, and by $325,755 in Texas Higher Education Assistance funds. Jamie Akin, executive director of development and alumni relations, said, “The family has a long history of supporting Angelo State University in both academics and athletics. They have left a great legacy that will give for many years to come.”

For Dr. Micheal Salisbury, who chairs ASU’s Agriculture Department, the new structure will provide much-needed space for a program that has experienced explosive growth.

“It is great to know,” said Salisbury, “that our supporters have enough confidence in our program to support us through their generous donations that will allow us to build this critical facility for training quality ag science teachers. As a result of our supporters and the short-term success of our students, the program is growing much faster than ever expected. After two years, we have more majors than we were predicted to have at five years.”

Contributors

Namesake Donors
E.S. Mayer and Sons, Ltd.
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Passing the Baton

Satcha Pretto's marathon has come full circle.

The starting gate was Angelo State University, where the Honduras native earned a bachelor’s degree in communication in 2001. She has since sprinted to the top ranks of the television industry as an Emmy Award-winning news anchor for the Univision Network, which led directly to her return to ASU in May as the spring commencement speaker.

In her commencement address, Pretto urged the graduates to tackle challenges with the conviction and discipline she first saw in her parents and learned anew when she took up running actual marathons four years ago.

“It has to come from within yourself,” she said. “You have to know that if you want something big at the end, like a huge reward, you have to work for it.”

When she was a new graduate, Pretto began working toward her goals by landing her first broadcast job as an anchor and reporter for a television station in Midland-Odessa, thanks to the advice of ASU alum Jose Goana, a producer at that station and current news director at another.

“I had already gotten an offer at a station in California, but as a producer assistant, I knew that in order to be successful, we needed to be bilingual. They made a lot of sacrifices in order for us to go to bilingual schools. I actually took U.S. history and U.S. government in my school in Honduras, alongside Honduras history and Honduras government.”

An attractive brochure and even more impressive Carr Academic Scholarship brought Pretto to ASU, where she found small classes, attentive professors and a supportive community.

“Even the people at the Admissions Office where I worked, it was just a very positive environment,” Pretto said. “I know that everything that I learned here really helped me go out into the real world.”

In May, it was Pretto’s turn to help the newest group of ASU graduates head out into the real world, and she hopes her message about conviction, discipline and the importance of relationships will be like handing off a baton in a relay race.

“I just hope someone who was listening, will go out, make a success of their life and someday be asked to come back to speak at commencement, that what I had to say will make a difference.”

For the second time in five years, Angelo State University has been named one of the “Great Colleges to Work For” by the Chronicle of Higher Education, the major national news source for college and university faculty and administrators.

ASU was one of only 97 colleges nationally so recognized in the Chronicle’s July 26 edition. Universities are evaluated in four general areas with three categories in each area. ASU was honored in the leadership and workplace areas and their respective categories for supervisor or department-chair relationship and for facilities, workspace and security.

Angelo State President Brian J. May said, “This honor reaffirms what we have long known, that ASU is not only a great place to get a college education, but also a great place to work. This recognition reflects the team effort of both our faculty and our staff to deliver a quality education to our students. It is appropriate that our employees’ good work is receiving national recognition because they create such a positive and supportive work environment.”

The “Great Colleges to Work For” designation is based upon surveys conducted earlier this year of more than 44,000 employees at 300 colleges and universities nationally. ASU was previously identified as one of the nation’s “Great Colleges to Work For” in 2009.

ASU Human Resources Director Kurtis Neal said, “This recognition represents the pride and integrity that we all have in our work here at ASU. When we all put in our best efforts, we all benefit from those efforts. Organizations are only great if the people are great. This is not just a level of recognition for us as a place to work, but an acknowledgment of how great our folks are that work here.”

The Chronicle designation is one of more than 15 major national recognitions ASU has received since 2009, including the latest Princeton Review’s “Best Colleges” list, which was announced in August for 2014. This year marks the fifth consecutive year ASU has made the national Princeton Review list.
D-Day Documentarian

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) just cannot seem to get enough of Dr. Robert Ehlers.

An ASU professor of security studies, Ehlers has taken part in a pair of BBC World War II documentaries, the most recent of which, “D-Day in 3-D,” explores the role of air intelligence in the D-Day landings, and aired in the U.S. on the Discovery Channel in May. Filming took place at RAF Medmenham in Buckinghamshire, England, and in Normandy, France, where Ehlers joined several other historians and surviving veterans of those WWII campaigns.

“It’s a great honor to work directly with the veterans,” Ehlers said, “and to tell an important story because, frankly, intelligence has been the ‘quiet service.’ It has generally been either not covered well or simply ignored altogether, including cases when it played a central role in the success of major military operations. The success of D-Day depended to a large extent on the effectiveness of intelligence.”

The BBC’s interest in Ehlers stems from his book, Targeting the Third Reich: Air Intelligence and the Allied Bombing Campaigns, which was published in 2010 and won the Best Air Power History Book Award from the U.S. Air Force Historical Foundation. He previously took part in the BBC documentary “Operation Crossbow” that aired in the U.S. in “3-D Spies of WWII” on PBS in January of 2012 and is now available on Netflix.

Ehlers’ second book, tentatively titled Over the Middle Sea: The War in the Mediterranean Theater, 1939-1945, is in the publication process and could generate additional future interest from documentarians.

Well-Timed Tome

Sometimes, you just get lucky.

When Dr. Bruce Bechtol Jr. began working on his latest book about the political climate in North Korea, he had no idea its release in May would come at such an opportune time. Titled The Last Days of Kim Jong-il: The North Korean Threat in a Changing Era, it explores the foreign and domestic policies of North Korea following the death of former dictator Kim Jong-il and the ascension of his son, current ruler Kim Jong-un, at a time when the actions of the North Korean government dominate world headlines.

“I believe the timing of the book is fortuitous because of the many security issues involving North Korea that we are seeing in the news today,” said Bechtol, ASU associate professor of political science. “Its release will hopefully help those with an interest in Korea to have a greater understanding of the context and substance that surrounds the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.”

It has certainly drawn the media’s interest. Since the book’s release, Bechtol has been either not covered well or simply ignored altogether, including cases when it played a central role in the success of major military operations. The success of D-Day depended to a large extent on the effectiveness of intelligence.”

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“Although San Angelo is not my hometown, a part of me felt like I was coming home when I returned for this assignment,” Magnan said. “To have been a student at ASU while enlisted, then a cadet enrolled in ASU’s ROTC program while pursuing my degree and finally being commissioned out of ASU’s Detachment 847, I have strong ties to both the university and the detachment.”

For Magnan, who has since been reassigned to a post in Washington, D.C., the anniversary commissioning ceremony also featured an unforgettable spin on the tradition of the newly commissioned officers receiving their first salute. New 2nd Lt. Monique Lockwood of Roseville, Calif., received her first salute simultaneously from her father, mother and sister, all in Air Force uniform.

“That was unique,” Magnan said. “We commissioned some pretty amazing young officers. I’m proud of them all.”

More than 600 ASU cadets have now been commissioned since Detachment 847 was formed in 1971.
Sean Motl cannot get Africa out of his blood. A Wall native and senior in the ASU Honors Program, Motl first experienced Africa during a 2012 summer internship in Rwanda. Ever since, he has wanted to return to work on improving health care for the impoverished populace.

That dream is a lot closer to reality, now that Motl has been named a 2013 Truman Scholar by the Harry S. Truman Foundation, one of only 62 nationwide and the first for ASU. The honor comes with a $30,000 scholarship to fund his graduate studies.

“It was certainly a very long process,” Motl said, “but the application process itself helped me explore myself and what I wanted out of my future and my career.”

A psychology major and chemistry minor, Motl plans to enter a dual M.D./Ph.D. program toward becoming a medical anthropologist. His inspiration is Harvard University’s Dr. Paul Farmer, who co-founded the Partners in Health organization to help the poor in Haiti and Africa.

“My trip to Rwanda just kind of confirmed it all,” Motl said. “It was a brilliant experience and I met so many great people, making friends with Rwandans and people who live around the world. It was a very comforting feeling that I was finally in Africa, where I want to be.”

While many students are lucky to own any professional attire by the time they leave college, ASU graduate student Joshua Heimbecker will have a whole week’s worth of suits.

He needs them for all of the meetings and functions he attends as the new student regent for the Texas Tech University System (TTUS).

While Heimbecker is the only non-voting member of the 10-member Board of Regents, his voice will be a crucial component of board meetings and closed-door executive sessions.

“I’ve got to try to convey to them the views of the students and how things will affect students,” Heimbecker said. Being chosen as the student regent was an exhaustive process. After making the final application round at ASU, Heimbecker’s materials were sent to the TTUS Chancellor’s Office. The chancellor then forwarded his recommendations to Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who made the final selection. Now, Heimbecker is ready to repay their trust.

“It is a little intimidating,” Heimbecker said. “All these people that I work with, these are the leaders of one of the strongest university systems in the nation. They’re all very successful and well-respected individuals. But even when I was just visiting the board meetings or there as vice president of SGA, they were very accommodating and friendly, and I know that I’ll be able to learn a tremendous amount from them and hopefully be a strong leader for the university.”

In addition to his duties as student regent, Heimbecker is pursuing a master’s degree in student development and leadership in higher education. He earned his ASU bachelor’s degree in biology this spring, and was active on campus in the Student Government Association (SGA), Tri-Beta biology honor society and Ram Powerlifting Club. He also studied abroad and completed an undergraduate research project.
Piecing Together a Picture

Julie Richey’s art is in the details.

For a week in May, the mosaic artist worked on the installation of her “San Angelo Heritage Mosaic,” which covers a low, 42-foot-long wall outside Angelo State University’s Porter Henderson Library.

Using thousands of pieces of tile, Richey recreated images that are icons of Angelo State, San Angelo and the Concho Valley, from a burning torch representing the university’s annual Homecoming bonfire to water lilies of the city’s International Waterlily Collection.

“It’s going to be fun for the students, the users of the university and the staff to pick out their favorite images,” Richey said. “I hope that people will discover new things each time they look at it because you can’t possibly take it all in, in one visit.”

Richey’s project is the result of a Texas Tech University System policy that directs one percent of the budget for major construction and renovation projects be allocated to fund public art on system campuses. The mosaic is the first ASU artwork to be completed under the policy.

A Minnesota native who lives in Irving, Richey researched ASU and the area to come up with the images for the 267-square-foot mosaic. Along the top are “postcards,” including a Rambouillet ram’s head representing the ASU mascot, Dominic. Three of the postcards, as well as images scattered on the east side of the wall, were inspired by a visit to the Indian rock art at the Campbell Ranch outside Paint Rock.

“I love archaeology and I love petroglyphs,” Richey said. “It’s a really fascinating historical site to go to.”

“We were constantly searching for images of local wildlife, native plants, historical images, buildings and elements that are specific to San Angelo or to the university,” she added. “There are some images I wanted to use, like the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts, which is so architecturally significant, but it was not going to look good in this material. You just have to be conscious that not everything you can draw or photograph translates well into mosaic.”

In addition to working out the details of the images, Richey also had to consider the demands of the high-traffic location. She chose to create the mosaic using ecologically friendly Quarry Tile.

“It’s hard to cut because it’s very thick,” Richey said, “but you can scrub the graffiti off it and it won’t pop the glaze when it freezes outside. You don’t need to seal it and you don’t need to wax it or do anything to it, so it’s ideal for this kind of situation where kids are going to be sitting on it and maybe spilling their coffee on it.”

The thickness of the tile meant Richey and her team, Greg Cox of Arlington and Jon Snow of Grand Prairie, had to use a wet saw to cut the 12-by-12-inch squares into much smaller pieces, but it also allowed them to use the saw to create shapes not often seen in mosaic art.

“There’s a lot of specialty cutting to discover in the mosaic if you really take a good look at it,” Richey said. “From a mosaic artist’s point of view, if you came upon this, you’d say, ‘Look at how they did these yucca flowers. Look at the pattern they used to do that armadillo plating.’”

“I hope mosaic artists look at it from their perspective, too,” she continued, “and see that it’s something unique.”
Faculty Excellence Honorees

Dr. Joseph I. Satterfield and Dr. Scott C. Williams of the Physics and Geosciences Department and Dr. Jeffrey Womack of the Virtual and Performing Arts Department have been named winners of ASU’s 2013 President’s Awards for Faculty Excellence. Satterfield received the award for Faculty Excellence in Leadership. Williams’ award is for Faculty Excellence in Research/ Creative Endeavor. Womack is the award winner for Faculty Excellence in Teaching. Each received $2,500 and presidential recognition award pins. Womack and Williams will be ASU’s nominees for the Texas Tech University System Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Research. They and 20 other nominees from ASU’s four academic colleges were honored at the fourth annual Faculty Recognition Dinner sponsored by the ASU Faculty Senate. Semifinalist winners in each of the three categories were also announced, and each received a $500 award.

Semifinalists in the Excellence in Leadership/Service category were Dr. Stephen D. Emmons, Visual and Performing Arts; Dr. Won-Ian Lee, Security Studies and Criminal Justice; Dr. Edith M. Osborne, Chemistry and Biochemistry; and Dr. Sar-geeta Snugg, Psychology, Sociology and Criminal Justice.

Semifinalists in the Creativity in Research/ Creative Endeavor semifinalists were Dr. Loree A. Branhman, Agriculture; Dr. Detelle S. Elenkov, Management and Marketing; Dr. Amans R. Guardiola, Biocology; and Dr. Kimberly Lippens, Curriculum and Instruction.

Semifinalists in the Excellence in Teaching category were Dr. Kirk W. Braden, Agriculture; Dr. James W. Ward, Physics and Geosciences; and Dr. Alaric A. Williams, Curriculum and Instruction.

President, Distinguished Award Winners

Blake McCracken has received ASU’s 2013 Presidential Award for Outstanding Student Achievement. McCracken, a senior in the College of Business Administration, is one of just nine students chosen from the nine undergraduate academic colleges. McCracken has been active in and oriented to five of ASU’s academic colleges.

Cassady Hossenlopp

Cassady Hossenlopp, a spring graduate of the ASU Honors Program, received a Dennis Boe Award for outstanding scholarly work at the 2013 Great Plains Honors Council (GPHC) Conference in April.

A biology/pre-med major from Bellton, Hossenlopp was one of only six Boe Award recipients at this year’s conference. The award included a $200 prize and a plaque. Her research paper, “Detection and Identification of the Dengue Virus that Tested Positive by ELISA but Negative with Conventional RT-PCR,” was selected for the award after blind readings by three honors faculty or directors from other institutions.

Joshua McGuire

Joshua T. McGuire of San Angelo, a junior in the ASU Honors Program, attended the College of Charleston’s Neuroscience Seminar in Germany this past summer. A biochemistry major and aspiring neurosurgeon, McGuire is one of only eight students chosen from the U.S. and Canada to go to Germany on a two-month program. During May and June, he studied at Ludwig Maximilians Universität in Munich and Charité Medical University in Berlin.

Duncan Knox

Duncan Knox, an Oronza sophomore in the ASU Honors Program, was selected for the 2013 Fulbright Student Grant for Young American Student Leaders at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom. A history major with primary interest in European history, Knox is one of just nine students chosen from throughout the U.S. for the four-week institute this past June. The program examined the theme “Slavery and the Atlantic Heritage.” He was chosen for the institute by the U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Commission.

Exceptional Teacher Candidates

ASU teacher education graduates, Lauren Couch of Weatherford, Michelle Hamilton of Carrizo Springs, and Kimberly Jones of Sweetwater have been named “Exceptional Teacher Candidates” by the statewide Quest for Quality program.

Couch and Hamilton were two of 36 teacher candidates selected in June from 49 nominees submitted by 19 Texas universities. Jones was one of 38 honorees selected in March from 48 nominees submitted by 15 Texas institutions.

The honor is based on narratives sent in by the nominees and their universities to a panel of judges. Honorees receive congratulatory letters and certificates, and are featured on the Quest for Quality website.

Maxwell Kennedy

Maxwell Kennedy, a senior in the ASU Honors Program, has been selected to serve on the 2013-14 Pearson Student Advisory Board and for Young American Student Leaders at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom.

A history major with primary interest in European history, Kennedy is one of just nine students chosen from throughout the U.S. for the four-week institute this past June. The program examined the theme “Slavery and the Atlantic Heritage.” He was chosen for the institute by the U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Commission.

People Who Make ASU Great

By Lauren Beck

Top Grad Students

The top graduate students in ASU’s four academic colleges were announced at the annual College of Graduate Studies Awards Banquet this past spring.

Maddie Bollfink of New Braunfels, a student in the physical therapy doctoral program, was named the 2013 Outstanding Graduate Student. It was the first time since 2007 that honor has been awarded by the College of Graduate Studies.

The Distinguished Graduate Student honors by major and college were Wesley A. Brachear of San Angelo, biology, College of Arts and Sciences; Haley M. Parnay of San Angelo, integrative professional accountancy, College of Business; Brent Dawson of Strawn, educational administration, College of Education; and Lindsey Neel of Midland, family nurse practitioner, College of Health and Human Services.

Norman Sunderman

Dr. Norman Sunderman of the accounting faculty has been elected treasurer of the National Association of Small Business International Trade Educators (NASBITE), an organization of business trade professionals and educators. He will serve a two-year term and be responsible for transactions and examining the financial records and budgets prepared by staff.

A 26-year ASU faculty member, Sunderman has been a member of the NASBITE International Board of Governors since 2012.

Exceptional Teacher Candidates

Nobert Fiszbein

Nobert Fiszbein, a student in the physics department, was elected the 2013 Distinguished Student Award winner for the Honors Program, has been named ASU’s 2013 Faculty Excellence Honoree for Faculty Excellence in Research/ Creative Endeavor. Womack is the award winner for Faculty Excellence in Teaching. Each received $2,500 and presidential recognition award pins. Womack and Williams will be ASU’s nominees for the Texas Tech University System Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Research. They and 20 other nominees from ASU’s four academic colleges were honored at the fourth annual Faculty Recognition Dinner sponsored by the ASU Faculty Senate. Semifinalist winners in each of the three categories were also announced, and each received a $500 award.

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Joshua T. McGuire of San Angelo, a junior in the ASU Honors Program, attended the College of Charleston’s Neuroscience Seminar in Germany this past summer. A biochemistry major and aspiring neurosurgeon, McGuire is one of only eight students chosen from the U.S. and Canada to go to Germany on a two-month program. During May and June, he studied at Ludwig Maximilians Universität in Munich and Charité Medical University in Berlin.

Duncan Knox

Duncan Knox, an Oronza sophomore in the ASU Honors Program, was selected for the 2013 Fulbright Student Grant for Young American Student Leaders at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom. A history major with primary interest in European history, Knox is one of just nine students chosen from throughout the U.S. for the four-week institute this past June. The program examined the theme “Slavery and the Atlantic Heritage.” He was chosen for the institute by the U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Commission.
Phi Kappa Phi

ASU has been granted a charter for a new chapter of Phi Kappa Phi (PKP), the nation’s most selective collegiate honor society encompassing all academic disciplines.

ASU President Brian J. May said, “The chartering of a Phi Kappa Phi chapter at Angelo State is yet another indication of both the university’s academic maturity and its growing reputation nationally. A Phi Kappa Phi chapter is awarded only to universities demonstrating high academic quality as verified by accreditation agencies, as demonstrated by academic performance and as recognized by academic peers.”

Phi Kappa Phi is considered one of the nation’s most prestigious honorary societies along with Phi Beta Kappa, which recognizes majors in the arts and sciences, and Sigma Xi, which honors majors in the sciences.

The ASU chapter of PKP will induct its first class of students during the fall semester.

Officers for ASU’s new PKP chapter will be Dr. Karl Havill, professor of mathematics, president; Dr. Blake Hightower, professor of criminal justice, vice president; Dr. Christine Purkiss of the Department of Teacher Education, secretary; Dr. Adria Battaglia, assistant professor of criminal justice, director of student affairs, treasurer; and Dr. Betty Hightower, associate professor of curriculum and instruction, president-elect. The new chapter will administer an endowed Chair of Criminal Justice Ranks in TWC funding, ASU is the only four-year university in the program. CCH is designed to recognize the knowledge and skills gained by military service members and to award college credit for military experience, enabling veterans to more easily re-enter the workforce.

ASU’s student chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is featured on the list of “outstanding KDP chapter” with the recognition of $110,810 from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) through its Credit for Military Experience, allowing students attending military service programs to split a total of $1.5 million in TWC funding, ASU is the number one community college that will benefit from this program, with 132 active KDP chapters at participating institutions. ASU’s student chapter of the American Chemical Society (ACS) is featured on the list of “outstanding KDP chapter” with the recognition of $110,810 from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) through its Credit for Military Experience. This program is designed to recognize the knowledge and skills gained by military service members and to award college credit for military experience, enabling veterans to more easily re-enter the workforce.

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Tri-Beta Tops

ASU’s Epilon Sigma chapter of the Beta Beta Beta (Tri-Beta) biology honor society has been named the Outstanding Chapter in District 2, which encompasses all of Texas, for the 2012-13 academic year.

The honor was announced this spring at the Tri-Beta South Central Regional Convention. The Outstanding Chapter Award is based on the number of student research papers submitted for presentation at the regional conference; number of members attending; chapter history results; paper and poster presentation results; and number of chapter officers serving official functions.

Individually for ASU, Malori Hughes of Ransom Canyon won the John C. Johnson Award for her poster presentation and Sarah Ensley of San Angelo won the Frank G. Brooks Award for her oral presentation.

The ASU chapter also won second place in the Chapter History Contest, and ASU’s Jazmin Humphreys was elected South Central Regional parliamentarian for the 2013-14 academic year. In all, 35 ASU students attended the regional conference with 10 of them making research presentations.

Teacher Ed Accreditation

ASU has earned an A+ for both its initial and advanced teacher preparation programs from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Not only did the NCATE Unit Accreditation Board continue the 2011 accreditation of ASU’s professional education offerings through the College of Education and other academic departments, it also identified no areas needing improvement.

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Criminal Justice Ranks

The master’s degree in criminal justice program has been ranked as one of the top programs in the country by MastersDegreeOnline.org for the 2013-14 academic year.

Only 38 U.S. colleges and universities are featured on the website for having outstanding graduate criminal justice programs, and Angelo State is one of only five Texas institutions offering teaching education programs accredited by NCATE.

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When the actors take the stage to perform an ASU theatre production, it is actually the final act in a process that began months or even years earlier.

That process starts with creating a season schedule for the University Theatre program, which produces ASU plays and musicals. Each season’s schedule of six shows serves as both practicum for theatre classes and entertainment for campus and public audiences.

“At ASU, the distinction between the production of theatre and the academic course work is virtually impossible to clarify,” said Dr. Bill Doll, professor of theatre and director of University Theatre. “Production is both an extension of the classroom, a lab and a student activity for non-majors.”

Doll and Mike Burnett, assistant professor of theatre and assistant director of University Theatre, serve both as instructors for the theatre classes and directors of most of the stage productions.

“College theatre is really great because it’s a laboratory where you want to fail at times,” Burnett said. “It’s a protected place to fail, in rehearsal or in design conversations, so that the students can grow and so that by the time opening comes, they’re not failing. In the real world, it’s not like that. You fail once in the real world, and it’s forever.”

Choosing shows for a season begins with a lot of questions.

“What are the design needs for the whole season?” Burnett said. “Are there student designers who will be challenged by these productions? What are the acting needs? Are there acting chops or skills that are going to grow because of these productions? What’s the balance, men to women? What are the logistical costs of these? As much as a lot of people would like us to do musical after musical, they’re really, really pricey.”

Doll and Burnett read hundreds of plays before deciding which ones to include in a particular season. Each season runssummer through spring and includes two summer dinner theatre productions, a fall show, a holiday dinner theatre, a musical and a final production in the spring.

“Generally, we’ve chosen the plays that we’re directing,” Doll said. “One of our main things coming in is variety. The students need to see and do a variety of styles and genres.

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“Generally, we’ve chosen the plays that we’re directing,” Doll said. “One of our main things coming in is variety. The students need to see and do a variety of styles and genres. Theatre has plot, character and theme. It has language, music – which can be interpreted in several ways: music in language, incidental music, actual music – and spectacle. It can all be simple or complex. You can have a simple plot with music and action and big spectacle.”

“I generally think one element leads or drives the others,” he added. “Sometimes, it’s complex characters; sometimes, it’s theme; sometimes, it’s the language. My preference, I generally focus on character. My main interest is in characters changing, events driving their lives, psychological studies.”

“For me,” Burnett said, “I want to pick the musical first because that’s where the majority of our resources are going to go. Then we say, ’What can we package around this that makes for a good season for both the subscribers and the students?’”

University Theatre’s 2013-14 season opened with two dinner theatre productions, “What I Did Last Summer” in June, directed by Doll, and “The Fox on the Fairway” in August, directed by Burnett.

“Our dinner theatres, we really want them to be fun,” Doll said. “Three of our productions, the dinner theatres, they are not emotionally or intellectually challenging, but I think there are clear messages even if they’re a little bit lighter.”

“Learning something about ourselves and others, that’s what I think theatre is really about,” he continued. “Even though it’s lighter fare, there needs to be that message.”

In October, University Theatre will present “The Lion in Winter,” which will also be ASU’s entry for the state Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCATF), then, if selected, for the regional festival in Louisiana. The regional festival includes college productions from Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Missouri, Arkansas and Louisiana.

“For KCATF, we do something challenging for a theatre audience, a real challenge for the students,” Doll said. “With ‘The Lion in Winter,’ it’s been a play that I’ve looked at for a long time. I knew we had students interested in doing lighting design and...
The art of theatre actually has a lot in common with the construction industry. While they may seem worlds apart, both require plans drawn up with computer-aided design (CAD) software, as well as builders, painters and electricians to bring those plans to life. Matt Smith spent seven years in charge of those efforts as technical director for ASU's University Theatre program until leaving in June to work on his Master of Fine Arts in technical theatre at the University of Texas at Austin.

"We always start with a ground plan," Smith said. "I start sketching things out, using CAD." University Theatre's annual season begins each year with two back-to-back summer dinner theatre productions, which are staged in the ASU Modular Theatre. Smith's final ASU production was the dinner theatre "What I Did Last Summer" in June. "The Modular Theatre is so flexible," Smith said. "The stage was centered for 'What I Did Last Summer,' it had to be in the corner." Other considerations for the summer stage design included where to put the audience in relation to the stage and how best to allocate space for the tables and chairs for the audience to dine.

"That's one of those things most designers don't have to face, how to design the house," said Dr. Bill Doll, ASU theatre professor and director of University Theatre. Much of the set construction takes place in the huge workshops behind the stage that became Smith's personal venues. He worked there as a student until he earned his bachelor's degree in theatre in 2004, and then returned as technical director and scenic and lighting designer for University Theatre in 2006. Even though he is now pursuing a graduate degree at UT, he hopes his time at ASU theatre majors can tailor their design, says Smith. "I hope to freelance back here," Smith said. "Occasionally, they have guest designers, but they always try to give the opportunity to the students first. But I'd love to do that." ASU theatre majors can tailor their degree plans to specialize in design and technology, and that cadre of workers in their black crew shirts will work with new technical director Matt Chilcoat this fall.

The holiday dinner theatre will feature "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play" staged before and after Thanksgiving. That will be followed by "Musical of Musicals: The Musical!" in February. "Especially with musicals, we have to collaborate with the music program, so we have to fit it in when their musicians are available," Burnett said. "So, it's talking with them. What musicians do you have available; can we do a big orchestrated piece or do we have to do a stripped-down production?"

"I've directed the musical for the last six weeks, we'll be 'The House of Bernarda Alba.' It was challenging," Doll said. "This year it will be a little more challenging." Doll added, "We always start with a ground plan," Smith said. "I start sketching things out, using CAD." ACT TWO

Behind the Scenes

Matt Smith

Ryder Cornelison

Magdalena Hogan

The Modular Theatre's backstage workshop illustrates the pride those student crew members take in their work. It reads, "You cannot call yourself a techie unless you have put your BLOOD, SWEAT and TEARS into both shops. You are just a person in black backstage taking up space." "Techies are like the bass players of the band," said crew member Ryder Cornelison. "They are underappreciated, but you take them away and the band sounds bad." A sophomore from Rio Vista, Cornelison worked as a technical director and scenic and lighting designer for University Theatre in 2006. "I've kind of gone full tech since I got here," Holland said. "I think with tech you get to be more creative, and I like to work with my hands. I think it's easy to get a job because there are just a lot more positions and things you can do with it." "They both have different challenges," she continued. "With acting, you have to be brave to work, you have to be willing to put yourself out there. I think tech is something you work really hard on before the show, then it's a little bit more relaxed. Acting, you have some to do before the show, but then it gets really intense." As the daughter of a high school drama teacher, Holland got into theatre early. Cornelison also did "just about everything" for his high school's theatre program. "Acted, designed, worked lights, sound, built sets," he said. "In a program that small, you kind of have to do it all." At ASU, though, he is focusing on design. "I want to be Matt, basically," Cornelison said. "In theatre, you get to build really cool stuff. We're building docks that aren't really going to be in the water. In a couple of weeks, we'll be building houses." Another crew member, Ballinger native Magdalena Hogan, had a leading role in May's "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress." At the same time, she was also the show's master electrician, responsible for implementing the lighting design by hanging, connecting and focusing stage lighting fixtures. "I took a stage lighting class and it interested me so much I knew this was something I wanted to learn more about," Hogan said. "I couldn't choose which is my favorite, acting or master electrician. That's what I love about theatre, there's something for everyone. At ASU, with its small theatre department, everyone has the opportunity to try everything."
Whether as dramatic as 12th-century royal robes or as subtle as wide-legged trousers, costumes play a pivotal role in every theatrical production.

For ASU’s University Theatre productions, costumer Eldra Sanford uses the art of the sewing machine to tie together sets, scenes, actors and scripts with lines, shapes, colors, prints and styles. It all starts with research.

“Designers like to have a good four-to-six month lead, but we very rarely do,” Sanford said. “That’s our dream world.”

For this year’s summer dinner theatre production of “What I Did Last Summer,” Sanford searched the Internet for photos of the play’s original production, other period photos and magazine ads, anything that would help her identify the cut, style, color and prints of its 1945 setting.

“Putting in the extra time,” Sanford said, “is one of the characters.”

After researching styles, colors and even materials for a particular show, Sanford heads to her workshop on the second floor of the Carr Education-Fine Arts Building, which includes a vast closet for clothes that might be useful in future productions. Her hands are somewhat tied, however, until a production is cast.

“Depending on who is cast, I might have to build the costumes completely because I might not have slacks in stock with the pant leg width required for 1945, or whatever else is needed,” Sanford said.

Once the actors are chosen, she creates a measurement chart for each one that includes height, weight and other basics.

“Depending on the period we’re working on, we might have to add across the shoulders or the bust measurements,” Sanford said. “If we’re drafting a pattern, there are a whole lot more measurements for us to take. It takes 36 measurements just to draft a bodice.”

“I really have an aversion to copying, if I’m not using a vintage piece,” she continued. “If I’m designing a piece, I like to put myself mentally into that period and design a piece, not copy one.”

Cassandra Trautman, an ASU senior majoring in fashion design, said, “Designer also have endurance, commitment and a lot of energy.”

For students pursuing their acting dreams in ASU’s University Theatre program, it all starts with the audition process. That means potentially hours of reading lines with combinations of other actors in front of a show’s director. Often, that director is Dr. Bill Doll, theatre professor and director of University Theatre.

“There’s no easy answer,” Doll said. “It really depends on how many people audition, who they are. When we did ‘West Side Story,’ it was a big cast and we had just the right people show up. It’s magic, but there are so many variables. You just never know.”

For this year’s summer dinner theatre production of “What I Did Last Summer,” which is set in 1945, 14 ASU and area students auditioned for parts, and Doll tried them in 12 different combinations before deciding on the cast of two men and four women. Then at the first rehearsal, he asked them to write biographies of their characters, including their relationships to the other characters.

“Stretch your imagination,” said Doll. “Think of a world where there are no cell phones. Sixty years ago, more than half of us would play a musical instrument. There was no TV. People made much more entertainment for themselves, and children had much more freedom than they do today.”

“What’s the same?” he asked. “Parents want to raise children well. Children have respect for their parents, but want more freedom. There are similar age markers, such as getting a driver’s license. Start thinking about the environment, and start thinking about the character’s behavior.”

Cast members of ASU’s summer productions usually have less than a month between auditions and opening night, and not much longer for fall and spring shows. They rehearse three hours or more every weekday and often on Saturday afternoons. Most of them must also juggle learning their lines around classes, homework and jobs.

Senior biochemistry major Sawyer Hirt got involved in theatre at Wall High School and has carried it over to ASU, where he is a member of Alpha Psi Omega, the national honor society for theatre. He has had roles in two summer productions, “The Curious Savage” in 2012 and “What I Did Last Summer,” and enjoys putting in the extra time to be an actor.

“I was taking classes and working, and that wasn’t enough,” Hirt said. “I’m used to staying really busy. At small schools, it’s
what you did. I got into theatre from there, and I wanted to keep doing it.”

Other students have different motivations. Katie Graham, a May graduate of San Angelo Central High School who won a role in “What I Did Last Summer,” is inspired by her love of theatre.

“There’s just this certain magic when you step out on stage,” Graham said. “There’s nothing comparable.”

“The backstage experience,” she added, “what draws you in is this family camaraderie. You spend so much time with these people, even if just for one or two months.”

ASU junior Lura Cummins, a theatre major from Austin, took to the ASU stage for the first time in “What I Did Last Summer.” Her role was particularly challenging as she played a character at least 40 years her elder.

“Definitely, being old is hard,” Cummins said. “I’ve never been that in life, and being grumpy was hard. Evidently, I’m not that grumpy of a person.”

Regardless of why they are there, each of University Theatre’s student actors is committed to continuing the tradition of producing six great stage shows every year for campus and public audiences.

“I never really had any exposure to theatre growing up,” said Tyler Hastings, a sophomore from Mertzon. “Then, in my junior year in high school, I discovered the thrill of becoming someone else, of showing those feelings and emotions. You’re able to relish what you get from that. It’s very rewarding.”

“We’re all completely different,” said Cummins, “but we have the same sense of humor and there’s nothing that can shock anyone. I like being with like minds the most.”

The drama of live theatre is that no performance is ever the same from one night to the next.

After weeks of memorizing lines and attending late-night rehearsals, the student actors on opening night of “What I Did Last Summer” were prepared for almost anything except the white undershorts inadvertently left on stage after a crucial scene.

To the cast and crew, the boy’s underwear seemed to glow on stage, as out of place as an alien spaceship would have been had it landed there during the performance. The pressure of handling the brazen briefs would fall upon the next actor on stage, in this case Karis Elliott, the youngest performer in the coming-of-age play, as Bonny.

How she would handle the situation would create a mini-drama within the live performance for the cast and crew, though if handled correctly, the audience would never know it was not part of the play.
The drama of live theatre is that no performance is ever the same from one night to the next. Like handling the out-of-place underwear of this past summer’s dinner theatre production, student actors and crew members, even after weeks of intense preparation, must adapt to the unexpected. The reaction of a live audience can hold its own surprises, as ASU senior Sawyer Hirt of Wall experienced in the role of 14-year-old Charlie in “What I Did Last Summer,” a play set in 1945.

“Once the performances start, it’s in the hands of the stage manager,” said senior Jacob Scott of Bronte. “As stage manager, my job is to make sure the rehearsal process, the technical process and the production process run as smoothly as possible,” Scott said. “Prior to the first rehearsal, the stage manager must be familiar with the script, familiar with the director and very familiar with the rehearsal schedule.”

“During rehearsals, the stage manager provides whatever the director needs,” he added. “The technical people know they don’t receive the accolades, but they don’t do it for the recognition. Their job is to go on stage for the next scene. Now O’Briant, a May graduate of Central High School, had to get them off stage. His options were limited. He couldn’t send a crew member out to retrieve them. It would have to be an actor.”

O’Briant could have the actor kick or toss them off stage as inconspicuously as possible, though what’s inconspicuous when all eyes are focused on the stage? Such a resolution would have amounted to an admission of the mistake. Or, the actor could pretend the underwear removal was all part of the play.

“Cameron came up to me back stage and said just ‘flick them off.’ I thought, ‘no way.’ If I’m going to do it, then I’m going to go big,” Elliot said. As 14-year-old Bonny, Elliot strode on stage, picked up the undershorts gingerly and gave them a look of disdain and disgust. Then with a great flourish, she tossed them off stage as if had all been part of the play. The audience was none the wiser.

Instead of a stage disaster, it was one of those hands belonging to senior Jacob Scott of Bronte. “As stage manager, my job is to make sure the rehearsal process, the technical process and the production process run as smoothly as possible,” Scott said. “Prior to the first rehearsal, the stage manager must be familiar with the script, familiar with the director and very familiar with the rehearsal schedule.”

“During rehearsals, the stage manager provides whatever the director needs,” he added. “The technical people know they don’t receive the accolades, but they don’t do it for the recognition. Their goal is to put on the best production possible.” In addition to what happens on stage and backstage, students also learn many of the business and publicity aspects of the theatre industry and put that knowledge to good use for the various ASU productions. University Theatre sells around 6,000 tickets each season through the Arts at ASU subscription program, which Scott has coordinated for the last couple of years. He and other student workers staff the box office, answer subscribers’ concerns and help promote each show.

On stage or off, students in the ASU theatre program put in many hours of hard work in the dual effort of chasing their dreams and providing quality entertainment for campus and public audiences.

“We’re training students in so many areas,” Doli said. “We sell tickets, so we need box office staff, as well as actors, stage managers, assistant stage managers, master electricians, lighting designers, directors, master carpenters, wardrobe managers, riggers, promotions, properties. Different shows have different running crew requirements. Everybody’s staying really busy.”

Like trying to figure out what to do with the scene-stealing underwear without creating an opening night distraction. Cameron O’Brian, as wardrobe manager for “What I Did Last Summer,” found himself facing a dilemma after Hirt, as Charlie, had stripped down to his underwear before running off stage, then, in a comic moment, tossing his drawers back onto the stage. The shorts were supposed to have been picked up along with the rest of the clothes by the actor playing his mother but were overlooked in the previous scene. Now O’Brian, a May graduate of Central High School, had to get them off stage.

His options were limited. He couldn’t send a crew member out to retrieve them. It would have to be an actor.

Elliott, a Central senior, was scheduled to go on stage for the next scene. O’Brian could have the actor kick or toss them off stage as inconspicuously as possible, though what’s inconspicuous when all eyes are focused on the stage? Such a resolution would have amounted to an admission of the mistake. Or, the actor could pretend the underwear removal was all part of the play.

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Instead of a stage disaster, it was one of those magic moments found only in live theatre, a moment of improvisation, a moment of acting, the type of moments that occurs in all ASU theatrical productions.
Real estate agent and former ASU student Benjamin Beaver's San Angelo billboard was meant to be humorous, but is actually indicative of the local housing market.

The sign reads "Your home sold in 7 hours" and then in smaller print, "... or longer," and Beaver has sold a number of homes this year on the same day they were listed.

"If homes are priced reasonably and in the right location, seven hours is not outrageous," Beaver said. "Certainly, a lot of homes are selling in a week or less. Everyone in the industry is adjusting to the new pace – Realtors, lenders, inspectors and title companies."

Most are attributing the housing boom to historically low interest rates, as well as an increased interest in oil drilling in the Cline Shale, also known as the Lower Wolfcamp, which covers a large area on the eastern shelf of the Permian Basin. Tom Green County is included in the shale, as are Coke, Fisher, Glasscock, Howard, Irion, Mitchell, Nolan, Reagan, Scurry and Sterling counties.

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists' Explorer Magazine reported last year that drillers estimate they can recover 3 billion barrels of oil from the region, and that the recent oil discovery is the largest of its kind in the Permian Basin in the past 50 years.

Dr. Jamal Husein, ASU professor of economics, said new hydraulic fracturing technology is allowing oil and gas companies to reach areas they could not previously access and do it cheaper.

"No one knows how long this will last," Husein said, "but this is not short term. It's not one or two or three years, it's definitely more than that. These people know what they are doing in the oil and gas industry, and if it's not for quite a few years, they will not do it. They have to buy machines, equipment and tools, and they have to rent and buy offices, so we are talking about serious money pouring into the area. Unless they are sure it's going to last them for a while, they won't do it. So demand for everything is going to go up."

While many services and industries in San Angelo are likely seeing an influx of customers or can anticipate one in the near future, the increased demand is arguably most noticeable in the local housing market.
ASU alumnus Norman Dierschke, owner and broker of Dierschke & Dierschke Realtors, said in his 41 years in the business in San Angelo, this is a first for the housing market. “I’ve seen lots of ups and downs, obviously,” Dierschke said, “but never have I seen the market as it is today.”

Some sellers are even receiving multiple offers for their homes.

“Many times, if the offers are relatively close and a seller can’t make up his mind or there’s not one that’s outstanding,” Dierschke said, “the seller may go back to all of the bidders and say, ‘I’m going to open up the bidding again for a certain period of time,’ and that gives them a chance to come up with their highest offer. It’s not like an auction, but at least it gives the different buyers an opportunity to up their offer. There’s more to an offer than just the price. There are types of financing, special requirements, repairs to deal with and things that they may be asking for.”

Teri Jackson, president of the San Angelo Association of Realtors, said the local housing boom started in late 2012 and really heated up in January of 2013 and then dropped to just 92 days in 2013. “We’re encouraging buyers to put in offers quickly because in a week it might not be there,” said San Angelo real estate agent and ASU graduate Nancy Vincent.

Typically, San Angelo has 600-800 homes on the market at a given time, Vincent said, but now it is down to just a third of that. “It’s great because there are a lot of buyers,” she said, “but it’s frustrating for Realtors because we know what our client wants, but we can’t find it available.”

Vincent also advises her sellers to find another home to move into before they list their home. Otherwise, they may not have a place to live if their home sells quickly. “Some real estate agents are also using new techniques to sell houses even faster. Beaver uses social media websites, like Facebook, and hires professional photographers and videographers to better showcase his properties.”

“Now more than ever, buyers are looking online before they ever get to town,” Beaver said. “Video helps a lot if people are buying site unseen.”

Along with the increased housing demand, San Angelo is also seeing a steady boost in its median home price. According to the Texas A&M Real Estate Center, the local median home price of $122,000 in 2011 jumped to $255,700 in 2012 and to $355,180 by May of this year.

Fortunately for buyers, appraisal rates that are largely based on comparable sales in an area may be preventing home prices from rising too sharply. ASU graduate Clayton Boling, a consumer loan officer at Crockett National Bank, said 85-90 percent of appraisals are coming back at ask price or just a little bit lower, with the other 10-15 percent coming in lower than asking price.

“When applying for a home loan,” Boling said, “no bank is going to loan more than the appraised value because that would make you upside down on your loan, meaning you owe more than the property is worth. In the event that a buyer agrees to pay a sale price that is higher than the appraised value, the buyer would be responsible for coming up with the difference, again due to the fact that our bank will not finance more than the appraised value.”

Even so, Dierschke said he has seen a few recent instances when buyers have been willing to pay more than the appraised values.

“It’s the supply-and-demand factor,” Dierschke said. “You have to have a place to live; you found one you like; you’ve tried to bid on three or four houses; you didn’t get them; you’re anxious; all these other economic factors. And so one comes up, you don’t want to lose it, and you’re willing to bid higher than the appraised price.”

Another factor in the housing boom is people buying homes they do not plan to live in themselves. “A lot of the people who are purchasing houses right now,” Boling said, “are investors who are buying up properties and keeping them either as rental properties or turning them around. We are seeing investors who already live in San Angelo, as well as investors from other places.”

“We’re also seeing a lot of home equity loans,” he added, “so people can improve their properties, whether that is homestead or rental properties.”

Home builders are also getting in on the boom, and subsequently, the City of San Angelo Permits and Inspection Division has recorded a much higher volume of building permit requests. Typically, the city issues about 15 permits a month for new home projects, said building official Alfonso Torres. But that number had doubled for the first five months of 2013.

Additionally, the city is processing an increased number of commercial permits for new large businesses, like hotels and apartment complexes, as well as smaller enterprises. “We’ve also seen a big increase in zoning questions,” Torres said. “There’s a limited number of lots that people can build on, and our planning division is spending a lot of time dealing with zoning issues.”

“I think we are seeing a lot of people,” Boling said, “who want to get in on the influx of money that the experts are saying is coming to San Angelo. We are seeing a lot of loan applications for start-up businesses and existing businesses that are looking to expand.”

Oil companies are also coming to the city looking for larger commercial tracts. “A commercial property with some land is popular,” Dierschke said, “because the oilfield industry requires a lot of equipment and they need places for their equipment. They’re looking for service-type buildings with some land for storage. That seems to be the biggest thing in demand.”

In addition to new construction and a hot real estate market, the San Angelo region must also prepare itself for other economic impacts of the oil boom. Service industries can expect to pay higher wages, and local schools can expect enrollment increases, Husein said.

“If we manage it, and if the city knows how to manage it, it’s a good thing,” Husein said. “The city will make more money because you have more property and more property taxes. These people move in and they start buying things at local businesses, so there’s more sales tax coming to the city, and the state for that matter. But, these people will also use the stuff in the city. They use the roads and the bridges, and most importantly, water.”

“It’s always a tradeoff,” he continued, “and I don’t know if West Texas and San Angelo are really ready for this. If it’s becoming a bigger boom than we think it is, I don’t know if we’re ready for it.”

Ready or not, though, the oil boom has arrived and is already having a profound effect on the homes, businesses and residents of the region surrounding Angelo State University.
Historic Day Afoot

The date of May 4, 2013, has been indelibly etched in the history book of ASU track and field.

On that day, the Rams and Rambelles both won team titles at the Lone Star Conference Outdoor Track and Field Championship for the first time in program history.

“That was huge,” said head coach James Reid. “One, it had never been done at ASU before, and something I’ve always wanted to do is win a championship on both sides. I think the significance of it being the women’s fifth in a row, which had never been done before by any sport here, and for the men to pull it out as well for the first time since 1992, it just carries a lot of special meaning to me.”

The Rams, meanwhile, needed some help as their 4x400-meter relay team stepped to the starting block for the final race of the meet. With 138 points, ASU trailed both West Texas A&M (344.5 points) and Abilene Christian (399) to win their first title in two decades, the Rams needed to beat ACU in the 4x400-meter relay and hope WTAMU finished no better than fifth.

“That was huge,” said head coach James Reid. “That was huge.”

Overall, the Rams and Rambelles also combined for six individual titles to go along with the men’s 4x400-meter relay win. Jeffrey Jones of Houston (400-meter hurdles), Perez (400-meters), Jaylen Rodriguez of Hamlin (800-meters), Theresa Sue of Fort Worth (long jump) and Kimberly Williams of Roby (shot put) all won their respective events.

The javelin and the shot put were scheduling just 40 minutes apart, but a conflict delayed the javelin by 10 minutes, leaving just 30 minutes between the starts of the two events.

“Coach Reid kept telling me to keep calm that whole time,” Williams said. “He said it could be a possibility that I would have to go back and forth. He told me when the time comes, he didn’t want me to stress over it, yet when the time came, I was a little bit freaked out.”

Defining Moment

It took just 30 minutes and a whirlwind of events for Kimberly Williams of Roby to define her Angelo State career at the NCAA Division II Outdoor Track and Field Championships in May.

A fourth-place finish in the javelin and an eighth-place finish in the shot put gave the five-time Lone Star Conference champion something she had longed for her entire career – All-America honors.

“Honestly, it was surreal,” Williams said. “I wasn’t expecting even half of what I did. I was trying to finish in the top eight in the javelin and just make the finals in the shot put.”

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“Coach Reid kept telling me to keep calm that whole time,” Williams said. “He said it could be a possibility that I would have to go back and forth. He told me when the time comes, he didn’t want me to stress over it, yet when the time came, I was a little bit freaked out.”

After three throws in the javelin preliminaries, Williams sat in ninth place with only the top eight to be named All-Americans. Then, she had to go check in at the shot put and warm up.

Williams changed shoes from javelin to shot put, warmed up, and then changed shoes back to javelin for her final three throws of that competition. But after two throws, the senior had not improved her position.

“That last throw, coach kept telling me, ‘You have to do something big,’” Williams said. “I’m a competitor and I knew if I got that far, I wasn’t going to go home in ninth place.”

Javelin in hand, Williams ran down the runway and unleashed a personal-best throw of 152-4” (46.45m). That moved her temporarily into third place and was good enough in the end for fourth place. By then, however, she had other things on her mind.

“Honestly, Coach Reid had to tell me, ‘Hurry up, you still have the shot put,’” Williams said. “I was still in javelin mode, and luckily I had enough adrenaline to get through it.”

Another change of shoes, and Williams was set for her three preliminary shot put.
Lee Neumann had no idea what he was starting when he chose Billy Squier’s “The Stroke” as his walkup song.

For two straight seasons, his teammates and fans treated him like a rock star as overhead clapping filled stadiums every time he came to bat with “The Stroke” blaring from the loudspeakers.

“It was an awesome experience, seeing everyone up there with their hands high in the air clapping together,” Neumann said. “Even on the road when there was no music, they were all up there clapping. It gave me motivation and kept me relaxed. It showed that they all had confidence in me.”

Despite battling through an arm injury that required “Tommy John” surgery after the 2013 season, Neumann relished every inning.

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Despite battling through an arm injury that required “Tommy John” surgery after the 2013 season, Neumann relished every inning.

He became the first Ram to earn two Lone Star Conference Player of the Year honors and only the third to be tabbed a two-time All-American. An unheralded and unassuming player from Brenham, he was still surprised by the treatment he received from the ASU fans.

“It’s something I’ll never forget,” Neumann said. “You can’t ask them to do something like that for two years. I don’t even know how it started, but it’s the coolest thing that’s ever happened to me.”

Dedicated ASU baseball fan Mike Burnett, an assistant professor of theatre, was in the stands with his children for numerous games the past two seasons. No stranger to drama, he particularly enjoyed the intensified atmosphere created when Neumann walked to the plate and “The Stroke” started to play.

“Our favorite moments of the game included when the players’ walkup music would get the crowd pumped,” Burnett said. “Some of the choices the team had were fun, but whenever Billy Squier’s “The Stroke” would play for Lee Neumann, the whole crowd would get into clapping to the beat. There’s something about the beginning of that song that makes you wave your hands in the air.”

A transfer from Blinn College, Neumann collected 22 awards during his two years at ASU, highlighted by his LSC Player of the Year and All-America honors. He was also a two-time American Baseball Coaches’ Association/Rawlings South Central Region Player of the Year, and finished his Rams career with a .360 batting average, 152 hits, 31 doubles, 16 triples, 13 home runs and 96 RBIs. He also stole 39 bases and was regarded as one of the top defensive center fielders in the country.

“It’s really a testament to his work ethic,” said ASU head coach Kevin Brooks. “For him to come back his senior season and play at such a high level again this year was great. It’s not easy when there’s a lot being expected from you, and especially when you have to deal with an injury that ends most players’ seasons.”

Though hampered by the arm injury and saddled by lofty fan expectations, Neumann remained a run producer, a fan favorite and an example of what can be accomplished through hard work.

“I really just wanted to come here and contribute to the baseball team,” Neumann said. “I knew that I was going to work hard every day to be the best I could be, but I had no idea it would be as great as it was for me. I never thought about winning individual awards. All I ever wanted to do was play the game I love.”

Somewhere along the way, he also became a rock star. ■
Her teammates’ cheers always accompanied ASU Rambelles softball player Kacie Easley wherever she strutted to the plate.

Those chants of “Kacie Easley, you are amazing!” that actually began as a joke by former Rambelle Kristen Frye during Easley’s freshman season turned out to be pretty accurate throughout her four-year career.

“She was an intense, hard-working and talented player,” said ASU head coach Travis Scott. “When you add those combinations, it turns into a complete player. She is someone who hates to lose and is going to work hard to prevent losing from happening.”

A Temple native, Easley started 236 of the 238 games she played in for ASU. During that span, the Rambelles went 180-58, won the 2012 Lone Star Conference Championship and qualified for the NCAA postseason every year. By the time she was finished, Easley was a two-time All-American and ASU’s all-time career leader in home runs (42) and total bases (447). She also ranks in the top five in 11 other career statistical categories.

“It is really an honor,” Easley said, “and my teammates are the reason I was able to be in those categories. I really had people put me in the position to be successful. It is an honor to be in the record books and something I have a lot of respect for.”

Although blessed with abundant natural abilities, Easley still worked constantly to develop her skills.

“My mental game, without a doubt, is what I worked on most,” Easley said. “Thinking about situations and thinking about pitches in the batter’s box, it was something I struggled with as a freshman starting. As a senior, I was much more confident in my abilities to know the game and make decisions.”

She also had a flair for the dramatic. “Hitting the walk-off home run in the World Series her freshman year against Bloomsburg,” Scott said, “Anytime you can do that at the national tournament, it is pretty special.”

It was 2010, and the Rambelles were taking on No. 6 Bloomburg University in a national tournament elimination game. With the score tied, 4-4, in the bottom of the eighth inning, Easley launched a drive over the fence for a dramatic 5-4 victory. It was one of six home runs she hit as a freshman.

“Early in the season, I was pretty nervous,” Easley said. “The upperclassmen made it a point to let us know that we are there for a reason, and it helped my confidence.”

Another dramatic home run during her senior season put an exclamation point on Easley’s tenure at ASU. With the Rambelles trailing, 3-2, in the seventh inning of a game against No. 1 West Texas A&M, Easley came to the plate with a runner on second base. She proceeded to drive the ball into the wind and over the left-field fence to seal a 4-3 victory.

“She wasn’t afraid to have the leadership abilities to push teammates, and she fell in line with some of the greats in our program,” Scott said. “She definitely will be considered one of our top players to put on the uniform.”

By the time her ASU career ended, Easley had more than lived up to the chants from the dugout.

“I just really wanted to be known as a competitor, someone who played with heart,” Easley said, “and that was my goal, to always compete. I hope I have given and shown that. I love the game and really think I left everything I could on the field.”

Winning Tradition

The Angelo State softball team continued its winning ways in 2013 by posting a 37-18 overall record and advancing to the NCAA Division II South Central Regional for a seventh straight season.

After finishing third in the Lone Star Conference regular season standings, the Rambelles and head coach Travis Scott fought their way through the LSC Tournament and into the South Central Regional, where they lost in the final to St. Edward’s.

Junior utility player Morgan Spearman (Kennedale) earned All-America third team selection by the National Fastpitch Coaches’ Association and was also named to the All-LSC first team. Senior catcher Kacie Easley (Temple) also made the All-LSC first team as she put her name in the ASU record book by setting a new career home run record with 42. Easley, Spearman, senior outfielder Lauren Smith (Waxahachie) and junior pitcher Sandra Serna (Albuquerque, N.M.) picked up all-region honors, as well.

Six talented seniors finished out their ASU careers in 2013, including Easley, Smith, outfielder Britney Davis (Manor), infielder Holly Vanden Bosse (Murrieta, Calif.), outfielder Amanda Wilhelm (Round Rock) and first baseman April Breshears (Springtown).

Angelo State has averaged 43 wins per season since 2009.

Credit Where Credit Is Due

The highest ranking ever achieved by a Rams basketball team was record- ed by the 1983-84 squad instead of the 2008-09 team as erroneously reported in “Rough Season” in the summer issue of Angelo State University Magazine.

Under the direction of Coach Ed Messbarger, the Rams made their first appearance in the NCAA Division II poll after the move from the NAIA at No. 14 on Jan. 2, 1984, with a 7-1 record. Two weeks later the 1983-84 team reached No. 13, ASU’s highest ranking ever in men’s basketball.

ASU Magazine editor Preston Lewis said, “On behalf of the magazine and our sports staff, we offer our apologies for the error to Coach Messbarger and the members of the 1983-84 squad, as well as our thanks to team member Todd Bahmann for helping us correct the record.”

by Brandon Ireton

Amazing Career

Toddy Bahlmann
Rambelles track and field program. The national title for the title for ASU and the first in the triple jump. It was just the second indoor national meet, and the Rambelles' best team performance since winning the 2010 NCAA Division II Indoor Championships.

Golfing Ace
Athletic director Sean Johnson has handed the reins of ASU's women's golf program to Chandra Alexander, a professional golfer on the LPGA Symetra Tour, Canadian Tour and Sun Coast Tour.

"I am thrilled to be given this opportunity to coach such a talented group of women," Alexander said. "This team has tremendous potential and I am excited to help them achieve their goals and become a nationally competitive team. Plenty of hard work has been invested into this program since it began, and I can't wait to join and continue on the right path."

Alexander played collegiate golf at the University of North Texas and was named the all-conference squad and was tabbed the team's most improved player in 2011. She played high school golf at San Angelo Central, Snyder and Southlake Carroll. Her ASU roster will return five players from last year squad that finished in fourth place at the Lone Star Conference Championships.

Volleyball
Coach: Chuck Waddington (6th year, 118-52 at ASU)

Last Year: 29-6 (18-2, 1st in LSC)

Outlook: Angelo is defending Lone Star Conference champion for the first time in 20 seasons after finishing 2012 just one win shy of advancing to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Division II Tournament for the first time in program history. The 'Belles have enjoyed a steady ascent, which has them nationally ranked and eyeing another championship run in 2013.

Top Returners: Danielle Edwards (San Angelo) returns for the Rambelles after being named the LSC Goalkeeper of the Year last season. She recorded 79 saves and eight shutouts for the conference's top defensive team. The Rambelles also return defensive experience with seniors Kara Edwards (Bastrop), Jordyn Benfield (Oak Point) and Trisha Killen (North Richland Hills), plus junior Makaly Conway (Kenedale), who was named to the 2012 All-LSC second team. Offensively, ASU returns seniors Maggie Schaffer (New Braunfels) and Katie Squires (Grapevine), along with sophomore Sierra Anderson (Wichita Falls). Schaffer enters her third and final year at ASU with 10 career goals. Squires and Anderson chipped in three and two goals last year, respectively.

Top Newcomers: The Rambelles welcome four new additions to the team in New Mexico State transfer Maggie Je Keffury (Araujo, Cali.) and high school signers Zoey Hanrahan (Pflugerville), Courtney Bartusiak (Centennial, Colo.) and Kloie Harrison (Chandler, Ariz.). Keffury is a setter who will look to fill the void left by Alex Woosley, who graduated as ASU's all-time leader in assists.

Football
Coach: Will Wagner (3rd year, 10-12 at ASU)

Last Year: 5-6 (4-4, 5th in LSC)

Outlook: The Rams return 16 starters for the 2013 season. They will be joined by another talented recruiting class for Will Wagner’s third season as head coach. The Rams’ 11-game schedule includes five home games and six road games, and four games against teams that made the NCAA Division II playoffs last year. For the first time in more than four decades, the schedule does not include ASU’s former LSC arch-rival, Abilene Christian University, which has moved to Division I.

Top Returners: The Rams return eight starters on both sides of the ball, including several 2012 All-Lone Star Conference selections in junior running back Blake Smith (Burleson), senior defensive tackle Joey Searcy III (Grand Prairie), senior offensive lineman Isi Cocker (Euless) and junior linebacker Rush Seaver (Lampasas). The entire offensive line returns to anchor the offense while the defense will rely on seven uppersclassmen.

Cowboys Stadium: The Rams will face Colorado State-Pueblo at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14, as part of the 2013 Lone Star Football Festival. The game will mark ASU’s second straight year to play in the festival and the first meeting between the Rams and Thunderwolves.
Alumni Homecoming Activities

The Angelo State University Alumni Association will host its annual Homecoming Dinner on Friday, Oct. 11, to honor distinguished graduates and supporters of ASU.

The 2013 honorees are Alvin New, distinguished alumnus; Chris Sloan, distinguished Carr alumnus; Gil Casey Eaton, distinguished ROTC alumnus; Tom Hart, honorary alumnus; Dr. Donald Shelby, outstanding retired faculty member; Dr. Mack McCoulskey, golden ex; Dr. Alaric Williams, distinguished faculty achievement; and Leonor Constantino, outstanding staff.

Activities will begin with a reception at 6 p.m. in the LeGrand Alumni and Visitors Center, 1620 University Ave., followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are $60 per person or $90 per couple and are available by contacting the Alumni Association at 325-942-2122 or by visiting the website at www.angelostatealumni.com.

Honorees also will be featured in the 11 a.m. Saturday Homecoming Parade downtown. They will be guests at the association’s Homecoming Ram Jam from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and then be announced at halftime of ASU’s Angelo Stadium football game vs. Tarleton State.

Outstanding Retiree

Awarded to a former ASU faculty or staff member who had a distinguished career at ASU.

Distinguished Faculty Achievement

Awarded to a current ASU faculty member who has had a profound effect on the lives and careers of ASU students (not required to be an alumnus).

Distinguished Staff Achievement

Awarded to a current ASU employee who as a staff member has demonstrated support and dedication for the development of ASU (not required to be an alumnus).

Alumni Awards Criteria

Distinguished Alumnus

Awarded to an alumnus who has received significant recognition through career and/or community service and leadership.

Distinguished Carr Scholar Alumnus

Awarded to an alumnus who attended ASU on a Carr Scholarship and has received significant recognition through career and/or community service and leadership.

Distinguished ROTC Alumnus

Awarded to an alumnus who attended ASU as part of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 3407 and has received significant recognition through career and/or community service and leadership.

Golden Ex of the Year

Awarded to an individual who has been an alumnus for 50 years or longer and who has brought recognition to ASU and/or the ASU Alumni Association.

Alvin New

Believes in giving people the tools to succeed, much like ASU did for him. Armed with his ASU bachelor’s degree in business, New, Class of 1984, worked his way up from store clerk to president and CEO of Town & Country Food Stores. When Town & Country sold in 2007, he branched into other business interests and then ran a successful campaign to become mayor of San Angelo, a post he held from 2010 until this past summer.

“As mayor, you learn a fair amount about how things work,” New said. “Some things you can’t move as fast as you wish and some things you can do more with than you thought. I’ve enjoyed the people, the staff and the interaction with the public.”

For his proudest mayoral achievement, New points to the pipeline project to bring much-needed water from the Hickory Aquifer to San Angelo.

“The pipeline is now inside the city limits,” New said, “and that’s something the city has been working on for 40-plus years that’s going to come to fruition because of citizens voting it through in a referendum that we brought to them, and the work that we’ve done to get it here. It is going to have significant impact on the community, and I’m glad we were part of that.”

Recognizing that his ASU education was a major component in his successes, New and his wife, Patricia, Class of 1986 and 1990, have given generously to benefit ASU and its next generation of students. In 2000, they provided the university $350,000 to renovate classrooms in the business and education programs, and $250,000 for the Honors Program. Since then, thousands of students have utilized the business “BoardRoom” and the Inclusive Teaching Center, and more than 50 Honors Program students have received funding for prestigious summer internships and other academic enrichment programs.

“We think that education is the biggest tool in your toolbox for changing where you were to where you want to be,” New said.

“We want students to have a really good experience at ASU,” he continued, “so we try to be available to speak to classes and to provide some money for institutional needs, like those rooms in the business and education buildings. ASU really set us up for success and we want to set up some other students for success. I hope one of the takeaways is that some of those kids decide they want to help someone else be successful – so it all flows together very naturally and easily for us.”

For his business and political success and for his ongoing support of various university programs, the ASU Alumni Association has named New its 2013 Distinguished Alumnus.

“I was given a good foundation at ASU, educated well and prepared to do OK moving forward,” New said. “When people see me being honored, I hope they will see me as their example of ‘I could do that,’ and that it would give them some inspiration that studying, getting the good grades, doing the work in their career, getting involved in the community and contributing to other people’s success is worth doing.”

Since leaving public office, New continues to invest in the entrepreneurial development of individuals and start-up companies through his partnership in BNB Ventures. He also gets to dedicate more time to his daughters, Victoria and Elizabeth, who travel extensively to compete in equestrian events.

Alvin New was named the 2013 Distinguished Alumnus of Angelo State University.

Tools to Create a Career

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Chris Sloan

Distinguished Carr Scholar Alumnus

Education Enthusiast

Education is not just a career, it’s a way of life for Angelo State alum Chris Sloan. A U.S. Air Force retiree, he has been pursuing higher education continuously since 1988 and earned multiple degrees and certifications at ASU. He is currently working toward a doctoral degree from Texas Tech University while also putting his already extensive education to good use as head of school at Ambleside School of San Angelo, a Christian private school. “I think when you’re in education,” Sloan said, “if you’re not going to school, it’s almost hypocritical when you’re telling kids how important education is, but you’ve stopped yours. I always like to be able to talk to the kids about my experiences in school so that they understand it’s important your whole life to be a learner.”

Sloan learned the value of continuing education while still in the Air Force, when he was stationed in Germany. After requesting training into a private sector job did not work out as he had hoped, “I was not very successful at finding the job I thought I should have,” he said. “Everyone was getting out and getting these great jobs, but most of those guys had a two-year degree, minimum. I didn’t have anything. I had the experience, but I didn’t have the degree, and that was really what everyone was starting to look for in that field.”

So, Sloan attacked school with a vengeance, earning two associate degrees from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) and University of Maryland while stationed in Germany. After requesting and being granted a transfer to San Angelo’s Goodfellow Air Force Base in 1992, he enrolled at ASU, earned a Carr Academic Scholarship and completed a bachelor’s degree in math and science education in 1998. “It was probably three months after I got here that I started at ASU,” Sloan said. “I was going part time, but I was usually taking two courses a semester and summer classes. I didn’t really take very many breaks at all in my college.”

Still in the Air Force, Sloan then earned two more CCAF associate degrees before retiring in 2003 and beginning a second career as a teacher in the San Angelo Independent School District. His own education continued at ASU as he earned a Carr Graduate Scholarship that he utilized to complete his master’s degree in curriculum and instruction in 2006, as well as master reading teacher and reading specialist certifications in 2008. In 2012, he was named head of school at Ambleside.

For his educational and career successes, Sloan has been named the ASU Alumni Association’s 2013 Distinguished Carr Alumnus. “When I first came here, I was a sergeant and my pay was so low my wife and I qualified for the federal Women, Infants and Children food and nutrition service,” Sloan said. “We had two young daughters, so the Carr made a huge difference. I got it when I was part time and I got it when I was full time. It paid for tuition, books and then some. I know a lot of people get a Carr Scholarship,” he added, “and I know for a lot of people it makes a difference on whether they go to school or not. I definitely had the need, and it definitely made a difference so I was able to finish up my degrees.”

Sloan’s wife, Tina, and daughter, Aubrey, also are ASU graduates, and daughter, Jessica, is an alumna of Howard College.

For Air Force Col. Casey Eaton, it was Angelo State’s ROTC program that launched him to the wild blue yonder. ASU’s distinguished ROTC graduate in 1993, Eaton is currently the Air Force deputy director of programs and resources for the J8 Directorate, U.S. Northern Command, in Colorado Springs. He previously held command positions at Hickam AFB, Hawaii, and Akrot AFB, Okla., and served as aide-de-camp to the secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon. He is also a command pilot with more than 3,600 flying hours, and holds the Legion of Merit, the sixth-highest U.S. military decoration.

“I’ve been a mobility pilot most of my career,” Eaton said, “and have had the opportunity to support our nation’s interests in Iraq, Afghanistan, Europe, the Pacific, South and Central America and around the globe. Some of my proudest missions have been providing humanitarian support to Haiti after the earthquake, American Samoa after the tsunami and China after an earthquake. These are the types of missions that make an immediate and powerful impact on the folks you support.”

In recognition of his outstanding Air Force career, the ASU Alumni Association has named Eaton its 2013 Distinguished ROTC Alumnus. He credits much of his success to ROTC.

“For Air Force Col. Casey Eaton, it was Angelo State’s ROTC program that launched him to the wild blue yonder.”

“Tara Hart’s name describes her perfectly because she approaches her job with her whole heart.”

Since her arrival at ASU in 2011, the Nebraska native has fully embraced her role helping students learn about all aspects of campus life. As associate director of admissions, she plans recruiting events and helps admissions counselors reach out to prospective students and their families.

“The reason I decided to work here at ASU is because I felt it was a very close feeling of being at home, and I could see the potential of the university and how it truly served the West Texas area,” Hart said. “I was excited to assist students obtaining their college degree to learn as much about themselves and life outside the classroom. I want them to love ASU as much as I love my undergraduate institution.”

Hart also oversees the RAMbassador student assistants in the Admissions Office and volunteers with the ASU Alumni Association. For her positive influence on students at every level and her commitment to ASU, the Alumni Association has named Hart its 2013 Honorary Alumna.

“I believe my greatest strength is developing students to understand the importance of their commitment, dedication and actions as a student, employee and community member,” Hart said. “I love teaching students outside the classroom. It does not feel like a job when it is your passion.”

For Air Force Col. Casey Eaton, it was Angelo State’s ROTC program that launched him to the wild blue yonder.
Golden Ex of the Year
Double Ex

Dr. Mack McCoulskey

played a significant role at both San Angelo College and Angelo State University.

An Abilene native who grew up in San Angelo, McCoulskey attended SAC during 1959-61 on a basketball scholarship and played for legendary head coach Phil George on a team that qualified for the National Junior College Athletic Association Championship Tournament.

“That was a big deal for all of us,” McCoulskey said.

Following his time at SAC, McCoulskey earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at what was then Southwest Texas State College (now Texas State University) in San Marcos and a doctorate in special education at the University of Texas at Austin.

In 1976, while working as the associate director of a special education resource center run by the University of Utah, he made a trip to San Angelo for a family wedding and also stopped by to visit George.

“He asked if I was there to apply for the special ed job,” McCoulskey said. “He told me to sit down.” George then called Jim Hademenos, who headed ASU’s Education Department, and told him, “I solved your problem. One of my former players is sitting here. He has a Ph.D. in special education. You need to visit with him.”

Within weeks, McCoulskey was hired to teach students studying special education at ASU, where he stayed for 36 years until retiring in 2012. For his two-fold contributions to SAC and Angelo State, the ASU Alumni Association has named him its 2013 Golden Ex of the Year.

“This just happened to be the right place and it turned out to be a great fit,” McCoulskey said.

McCoulskey and his wife of 47 years, Diote, have a son, Jeff, a daughter, Margo, and three grandchildren, Macey, Quinn and Elaina.

Distinguished Faculty Achievement
Leading by Example

Dr. Alaric Williams

enjoys training future college administrators.

He was so eager to get started, in fact, that he snagged an assistant professor position in ASU’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction two months before graduating with his doctoral degree from Texas A&M University-Commerce. Now a five-year ASU faculty member, Williams directs the Master of Education in student development and leadership in higher education program, and has helped spark enrollment growth from 15 students to nearly 100.

“A lot of the positions in higher education, like director of admissions and coordinator of financial aid, require a master’s degree from a program such as this,” he said. “Because the program’s online, I have had students in Oregon, Florida, New York, Ohio and all over Texas.”

Outstanding Retired Faculty
Ongoing Influence

Leonor Constancio

follows a simple work philosophy.

“If you are going to do something,” said the publications assistant in ASU’s Communications and Marketing Office, “you give it your best.”

She maintains that philosophy both in the office and in the ASU classroom, where she is on target to finish her bachelor’s degree in 2015.

Over the past six years since joining the Angelo State staff, Constancio’s best has earned multiple Addy Awards and Member-of-the-Year honors from the American Advertising Federation-San Angelo (AAF-SA), which she served as president for a year, as well as two nominations for the President’s Staff Excellence Award and induction in the Alpha Chi and Lambda Pi Eta honor societies.

Now, she will add to those honors the Alumni Association’s 2013 Outstanding Staff Award for consistently maintaining high standards of creativity and job performance, which was lauded for her customer service mentality, her team play and her multitasking.

The Ozona native and nontraditional college student is at ease juggling the demands of the office and the assignments and homework of a college career as she works on her degree in communication with a creative writing minor. As if that were not enough to keep her busy, she also serves as advisor to ASU’s Graphic Design Club, remains active in AAF-SA and spent a month this past summer studying in Europe.

For all her professional and academic success, her favorite ASU accomplishment lies in the future.

Distinguished Staff Achievement
All Best, All the Time

Leonor Constancio

“It will be the day I cross the stage to receive my bachelor’s degree,” she said. When she does, husband Arturo, son Levi and grandson Xavier will be there to celebrate her best with her.
Morales figured it was time to strike out on about everybody there.”

“ASU has been a part of my family for a long time,” Morales said, “and I knew just from ASU in 2011. His younger brother, Adrian, also graduated 2006, his Master of Education in 2008 and F. campus before he enrolled to dent’s Office and Facilities Management, both longtime ASU employees, in the Presi- mother, Adelina, and his father, Alfred, are finally have to leave Angelo State behind. job in Dallas, David Morales thought he would 46

Once his recruits graduate from An- gelo State, Morales also recommends they join the ASU Alumni Association to both strengthen their bond to the university and make new connections with other alums. To back that up, Morales points to his own experience of meeting fellow alum Mario Flores at an association sored event in Dallas in 2011. Flores is a life and career counselor through his com- pany, Top Notch Coaching, and when Mo- rales was tasked with directing the annual Man-Up Conference for the Dallas County Community College District, Flores was happy to help. “It was the first Man-Up Conference at Mountain View College,” Morales said. “We had over 100 high school juniors and seniors and college freshmen attend the conference and put together a successful event. He was a great resource I wouldn’t have had if I hadn’t gone to that Alumni As- sociation event.”

“Would encourage all ASU alums to be involved in the Alumni Association,” he added, “because you never know how the connections will benefit you.” That alumni network has paid big divi- dends for Morales, and with ASU alums spread throughout Texas and the U.S., he feels opportunities abound for them to con- nect with new graduates. “The ASU alumni who are excelling at their jobs are also helping other ASU grads get pushed to the top of the list when it comes to getting hired,” Morales said, “and I would love to see that grow even beyond what it is now. That is the great thing about ASU, it is continuously growing and not settling for the status quo. It is pushing itself to be better and do more. Having that extra support that ASU gives without even knowing it is a great ben- efit of the alumni network.” “The ties we created in college are al- ways going to be there,” he continued. “Now, it’s a matter of sharing those mem- orable experiences, love for learning and happiness we had at ASU and passing them on to the next generation. Angelo State has been around long enough that now we are seeing a second and third generation of stu- dents becoming ASU grads, so it is starting a legacy that I am proud to be a part of.”

by Tom Nurre

Once he graduated and went looking for a job in Dallas, David Morales thought he would finally have to leave Angelo State behind. It was not an attractive prospect. His mother, Adelina, and his father, Alfred, are both longtime ASU employees, in the Presi- dent’s Office and Facilities Management, respectively. So, Morales was already famil- iar with the campus before he enrolled to earn his bachelor’s degree in government in 2000, his Master of Education in 2008 and his Master of Public Administration in 2009. His younger brother, Adrian, also graduated from ASU in 2011. “ASU has been a part of my family for a long time,” Morales said, “and I knew just about everybody there.”

But after earning his third ASU degree, Morales figured it was time to strike out on his own. He landed a job at Mountain View Community College (MVC) in Dallas and was pleasantly surprised to find out that ASU had gotten there before him.

“When I arrived here, it was a new ex- perience for me,” Morales said. “But it was little things, like wearing my ASU ring, that got noticed and people started asking ques- tions. Then they told me about other people who had gone to ASU, and that is how I met Dr. Quentin Wright, the dean of the Depart- ment of Education, and he mentioned other alums at MVC.” Those other ASU alumni include Moises Almendariz, dean of instructional support, who administers MVC’s Title V Hispanic Serving Instru- mentation (HSI) Grant; and Tim Soyars, director of business operations, who was featured in the spring 2012 edition of ASU Magazine. Besides helping Morales adjust to life at MVC, Almendariz has also been able to offer support to his HSI coun- terpart at ASU, Joe Muñoz, special assistant to the president for multicultural initiatives.

“We got Moises and Joe connected,” Morales said, “so now Moises is able to give back to ASU periodically if Joe has a ques- tion about Angelo State’s HSI grants since MVC has been a Hispanic Serving Institu- tion for a long time. It’s amazing how things like that allow us all to stay connected.”

Eager to put the ASU alumni network to even further use, Morales branched out and began involving MVC students. Through his initial MVC post as advisor for the Rising Star Program, he started organizing spring MVC campus tours for students interested in transferring to a four-year college, and now continues the tours as advisor for MVC’s Male ACCESS Program. The first tour in 2010 had 16 students, and that number had increased to more than 40 by the spring of 2013.

“Some of my students had never even left Dallas,” Morales said, “and the far-thest west many of them had been was Fort Worth. They know about ASU because I have Angelo State memorabilia plastered all over my office – and because of the great experience I had at ASU, I want them to get a little glimpse of that as well. That’s why our tours are not the general kind that most students go on. Our students get the ‘David Morales’ version of the tour.”

“Whenever they arrive at ASU, they are pretty much blown away,” he continued. “It’s a quite a bit different culture, and the people on campus are really friendly. When they experience that kind of family atmos-phere, it allows them to open themselves up for new experiences. So after that, they get charged up to consider attending ASU, and some of them don’t want to leave.”

Victor Jesus Garcia came on one of the tours and returned to enroll in ASU’s crimi- nal justice program. He is scheduled to graduate in May of 2014. “I wanted to get away from the big city life and start a new life for myself,” Garcia said. “I also really liked the criminal justice program at ASU and the campus.”

“I really enjoy my classes,” he added. “They are small enough that I really get to interact with my professors. I’m also in- volved in intramurals. I play soccer and soft- ball, and I really like the sand volleyball as well. With my bachelor’s degree, I plan to either join the military or get a job in the court system to work for immigration re- form. Thanks to Mr. Morales, I also realize how networking is important.”

And, Morales’ recruiting is not limited to just students. He also encourages MVC faculty and staff to take advantage of ASU’s graduate programs. A prime example is MVC staffer Julian Moss, who just gradu- ated with his ASU master’s degree in May.

Once his recruits graduate from An- gelo State, Morales also recommends they join the ASU Alumni Association to both strengthen their bond to the university and make new connections with other alums. To back that up, Morales points to his own experience of meeting fellow alum Mario Flores at an association spon-

Blue & Gold Bonds

PHOTO BY DANNY MEYER

The Morales family (left to right): Adrian, Adelina, Alfred and David. The Morales family (left to right): Adrian, Adelina, Alfred and David. The Morales family (left to right): Adrian, Adelina, Alfred and David. The Morales family (left to right): Adrian, Adelina, Alfred and David.

PHOTO BY DANNY MEYER

FALL 2013 Angelo State University Magazine

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Each issue of Angelo State University Magazine highlights selected alumni and invites you to visit the Angelo State University Alumni Association website for the latest on your former classmates. To learn more about Angelo State alumni, visit www.angelostatealumni.com. Better yet, see what your friends are up to and then update the site with news about you, your family and your accomplishments.

1991

Cody Carroll has been hired as superintendent for the Krum Independent School District in Denton County. He joined the school district as assistant superintendent in 2012. He started his education career in 1992 as a junior high school football coach in Slaton and later served as a high school defensive coordinator, head football coach and high school principal. He served five years as superintendent with the Meadow ISD before assuming the Krum position. At ASU Carroll earned a bachelor’s degree in math with a minor in biology. He later received a master’s degree in education from Lubbock Christian University and a superintendent certification from Texas Tech University.

1992

Lucy A. Snyder received a Bram Stoker Award for Superior Achievement in Short Fiction for her story “Magdala Archaea” during June ceremonies of the Horror Writers Association (HWA) at the historic Hotel Monteleone in the French Quarter of New Orleans. Snyder’s award-winning tale originally appeared in the anthology Dark Faith: Invocations and has been selected to appear in Best Horror of the Year, Vol. 5. It will also be translated into Japanese for the magazine Night Land.

1994

Dr. Michael S. Husak, associate professor of biological sciences at Cameron University in Lawton, Okla., has received the Bhattacharya Endowed Lectureship for Excellence in Research Award from the university. The Bhattacharya Research Award was established in 2008 to advance the quality of research and creative/scholarly activity at the university. Husak was honored for the “strong and prolific undergraduate research program” that he developed at Cameron. A member of the Cameron faculty since 2003, Husak teaches biology, ecology, mammalogy, ornithology and zoology. He is the recipient of the 2011 Hacker Award for Teaching Excellence and was voted 2006 Professor of the Year by biological sciences students.

1997

Dr. H.T. (Heliodoro Torres) Sanchez has been named superiorintendent of the Tucson (Ariz.) Unified School District after a national search that attracted more than 65 applicants. Sanchez had previously worked in Odessa, where he had served as the Ector County Independent School District as interim superintendent, deputy superintendent and assistant superintendent since 2010.

1999

Capt. Chase Eiserman has been selected as one of Air Force District of Washington’s “Capital Airmen” for 2013. The designation showcases Air Force individuals who exemplify the Air Force’s core values of integrity first, service before self and excellence in all they do. Eiserman currently serves as the deputy chief of the Headquarters Air Force Contract Support Division in the Contracting Directorate in the Washington district.

2000

Dana Rhoades has been named Teacher of the Year at Sweetwater Intermediate School (SIS) for the 2012-13 school year. She is the fourth and fifth grade special education Air Force Contract Support Division in the Contracting Directorate in the Washington district.

2005

Julio Martinez, eighth-grade basketball coach at Glenn Middle School in San Angelo, has been named a Middle School Coach of the Year by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, one of seven coaches statewide so honored.

2006

Dana Rhoades has been named Teacher of the Year at Sweetwater Intermediate School (SIS) for the 2012-13 school year. She is the fourth and fifth grade special education Air Force Contract Support Division in the Contracting Directorate in the Washington district. The San Antonio native attended Converse Judson High School before enrolling at ASU and joining the campus AFROTC. He graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor of Business Administration and a commission as a second lieutenant. He subsequently earned a Master of Business Administration from Wright State University.

2010

Liz Marie Rascon has been appointed executive director of Amariro Wesley Community Center Inc., where she had previously served as administrative assistant and fund development director.

2012

Cody Bridges has been named the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agriculture and natural resources agent for Schleicher County. Bridges earned a bachelor’s degree in animal science with a minor in range and wildlife management at ASU after receiving an associate degree in golf course and landscape technology from Western Texas College.

2013

He has worked at Glenn since 2006. Martinez graduated from ASU with a B.S. in kinesiology.

2014

Jared Monteleone in the French Quarter of New Orleans. Snyder’s award-winning tale originally appeared in the anthology Dark Faith: Invocations and has been selected to appear in Best Horror of the Year, Vol. 5. It will also be translated into Japanese for the magazine Night Land.

2015

Among her awards, Martinez has received a $300,000 startup grant from the University of Texas at Austin’s Center for Education Entrepreneurship, a 2014-15 fellowship from Texas A&M University-College Station and recognition as a 2015 Next150 Inspiree from the University of Texas.

2016

Central American and Caribbean Athletic Senior Championships in July in Morelia, Mexico. Ruiz, a seven-time ASU All-American, won the heptathlon with a score of 5,467 points. She was the top scorer in the 100-meter hurdles, high jump, 200-meters, long jump and 800-meters while also setting a personal best in the 200-meters with a time of 24.69.

Cody Martin graduated from Angelo State University and earned a Ma...